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JOINT ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/SPA-RAC WORKSHOP ON MARINE DEBRIS AND CETACEAN STRANDING

32nd Annual Conference of European Cetacean Society, La Spezia, Italy 2018

CETACEAN STRANDING NETWORK (CSN) IN BULGARIA: DEVELOPMENT AND RESULTS

DEVELOPMENT OF CSN IN BULGARIA

- 1997-1999:** first cetacean stranding network surveys by IFR-Varna, partner within EU BLASDOL project.
- 2008:** reviving of CSN thanks to trainings organized by IFR-Varna and Green Balkans NGO, led by Alexei Birkun Jr. and Sergey Krivokhizhin (Ukraine) in Bulgaria with support by ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Fund (SCF).
- 2009:** IFR-Varna executed MOMEDOL project funded by national budget
- 2010-2011:** IFR-Varna with support by ACCOBAMS SCF executed project on further development of national CSN.
- 2012:** Green Balkans NGO organized National Expert meeting aiming to strengthen national CSN by improving cooperation among institutions.
- 2012:** Ministry of Environment and Water with support by ACCOBAM Secretariat has organized necropsy training hosted by IFR-Varna.

2013-2014: Green Balkans NGO with support by ACCOBAMS Secretariat has improved further national capacities of environmental authorities including municipal ecologists in the network. Manual on strandings was developed and disseminated.

2015: Save Koral NGO developed Facebook page SAVE THE Dolphins facilitating citizens' reporting for strandings.

2016: Green Balkans NGO in partnership with TUDAV (Turkey) developed citizen science mobile app and website BLACKSEAWATCH. 

2016: Ministry of Environment and Water invited prof. Sandro Mazzariol (University of Padua, Italy) to perform necropsies and trainings after mass mortality event in summer 2016.

Nowadays: network actors are still heterogenic and collaboration and coordination are not perfect.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION Presented data is based on reports submitted by Green Balkans NGO to MEDACES and information is collected by environmental authorities*, social media, blackseawatch.org.

*almost entirely by RIOEW Burgas covering Southern sector as data from RIOEW Varna was not regularly provided and quality was not very high.

Table 1: Strandings along Bulgarian coast for the period 2010-2017

Year	Dd	Tt	Pp	Delphinidae	Unidentified	TOTAL
2010		2	13	1	7	23
2011	1	6	5		6	18
2012	5	20	45	4	5	79
2013	6	22	21	7		56
2014	1	9	10		4	24
2015	2	7	97		23	129
2016	3	16	263	1		283
2017	8	8	91	3	17	127
TOTAL	26	90	545	16	62	739

Figure 1: Strandings by species and year

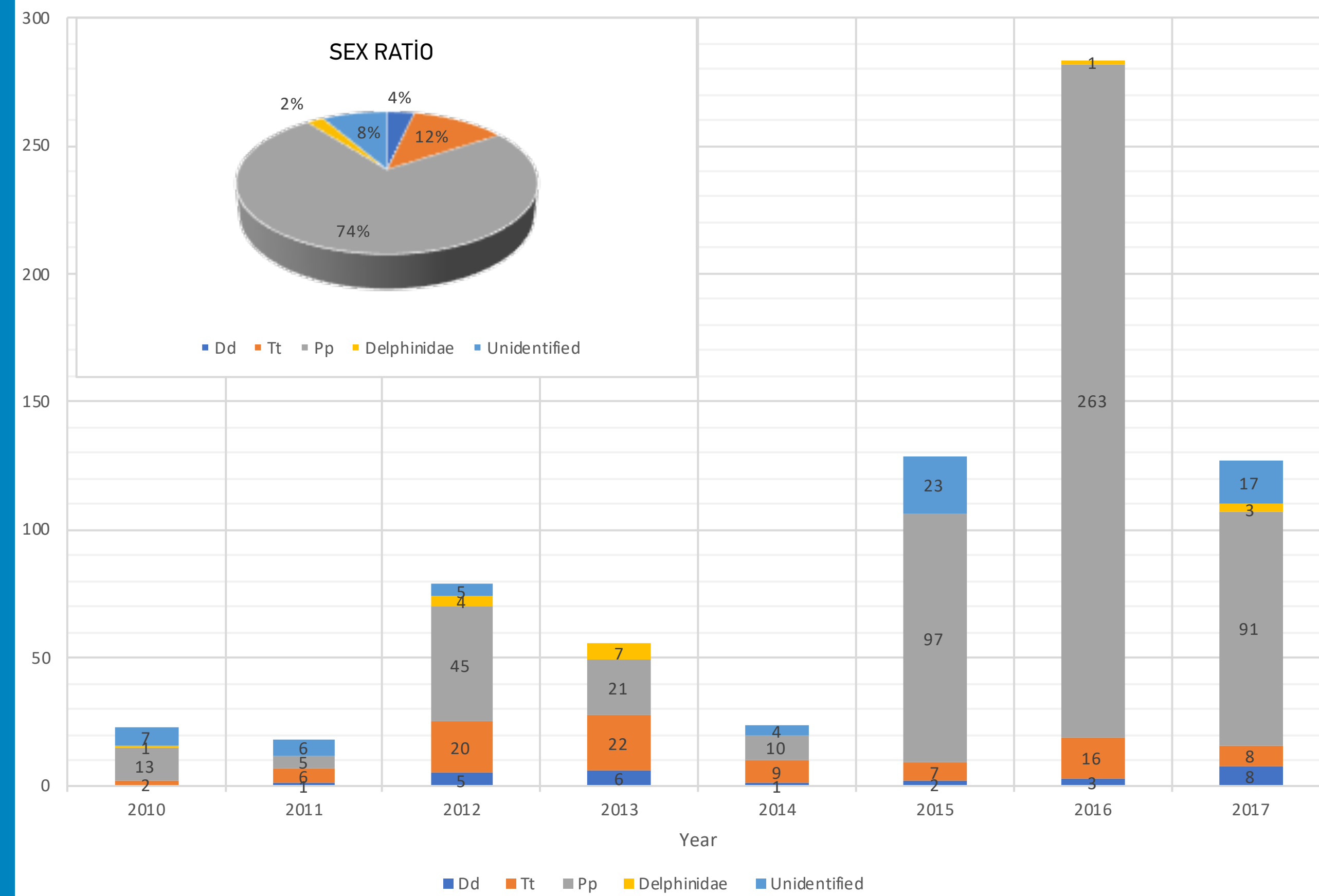


Figure 2: Sex ratio for the period 2010-2017

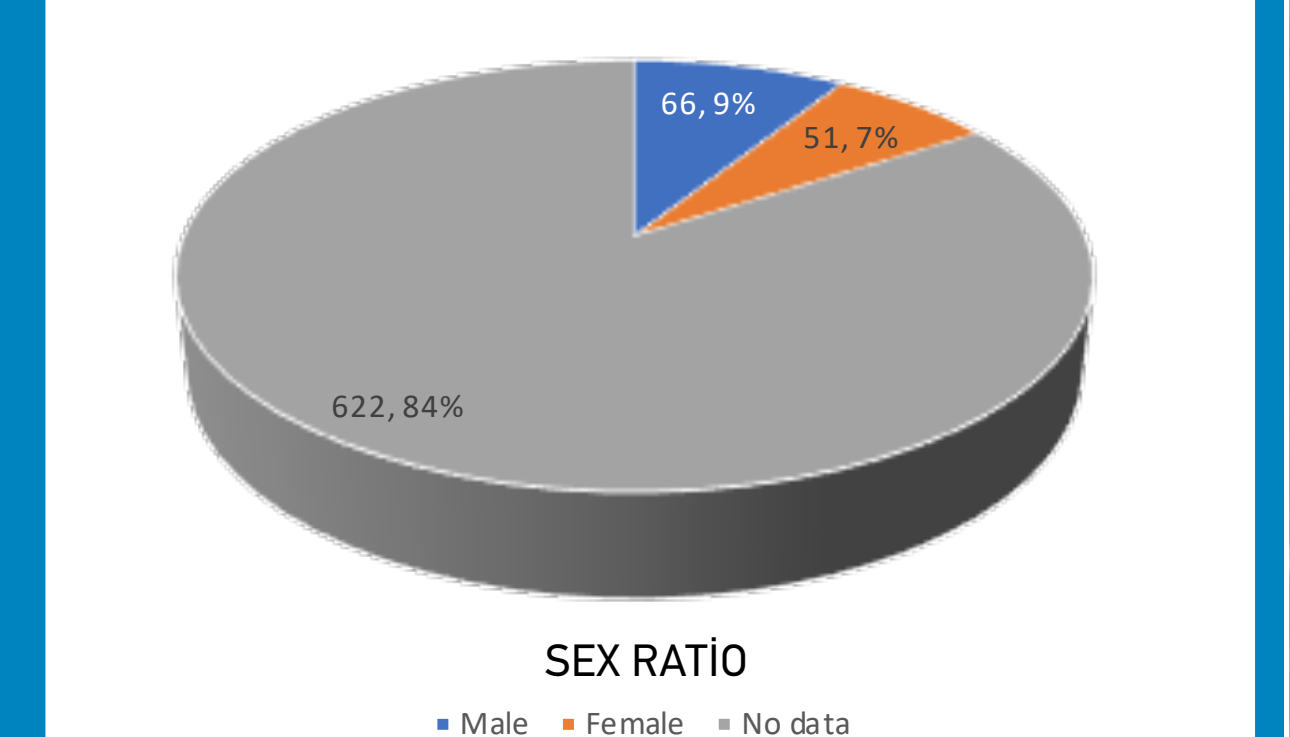
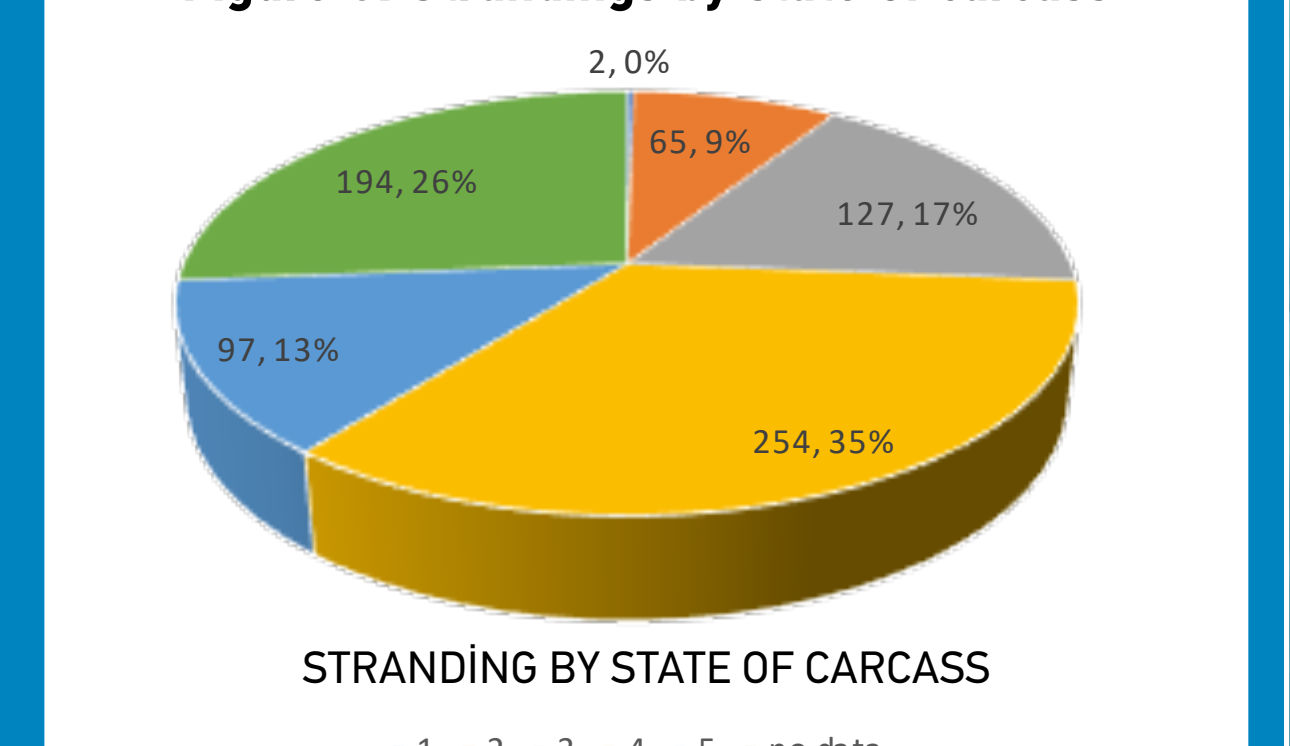


Figure 3: Strandings by state of carcass



CONCLUSIONS

- In the period 2010-2017 in total 739 strandings have been reported to MEDACES
- Highest share of strandings is for Black Sea Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena relicta*) – 74%, followed by Black Sea Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) – 12 % while 8 % were unidentified.
- Highest number of strandings was registered in 2016, followed by 2015 and 2017.
- In terms of data on sex it was identified only for 16% of cases.
- Regarding state of carcass highest is share in state 4 (35%) and 3 (26%) with only 9% in state 2.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CSN network has been supported through the years by ACCOBAMS SCF, national budget, EEA, EU funds and all volunteers and citizens who have been reporting strandings through the years.

